



## **Island Coastal Economic Trust Announces Funding for Dakota Ridge Winter Recreation Area Access Road**

**For Immediate Release  
February 21, 2007**

Courtenay, BC - Mayor W.J. (Jack) Peake, Chair of the Island Coastal Economic Trust (Trust), today announced funding approval by the Board of Directors of \$234,608 to the Sunshine Coast Regional District for the construction of an access road to the Dakota Ridge Winter Recreation area. The total project cost is estimated at \$1.1 million.

“The construction of this road will provide access to a spectacular winter recreational area and will attract thousands of visitors to the Sunshine Coast as well as providing the regional community with easy access to this major recreational area. The increase in visitations to the Sunshine Coast will translate into diversified economic development, a mandate of the Island Coastal Economic Trust” stated Chair Peake.

“Dakota Ridge is the only winter recreation area on the Sunshine Coast,” said Ed Steeves, Chair of the Sunshine Coast Regional District. “This funding helps us improve the 4 kilometre road into the area. By increasing access to the groomed cross country ski and snow shoe trails, toboggan area and warming shelter, we are ensuring that residents and visitors of all ages can enjoy the outdoor lifestyle that is such an important part of healthy communities”.

### **About Island Coastal Economic Trust**

The Island Coastal Economic Trust was established by Provincial legislation on February 27, 2006. It provides \$50-million that is managed by an independent board of directors made up of 8 locally elected government representatives and 5 provincially appointed members from the community. The board’s mandate is to makes strategic investments in regional economic priorities such as forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, energy, Olympic opportunities, economic development, agriculture and aquaculture, and small business. Information about the Trust can be found on [www.islandcoastaltrust.ca](http://www.islandcoastaltrust.ca).

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